

**Subject: Re: MEDIA REPORT ON  
WOODSIDE-LABOUR CALLS FOR  
PUBLIC INQUIRY**

**Date:** Mon, 4 Nov 2002 15:47:52 -0000

**From:** [Len Smith](#)

**Reply-To:** ['Traveller-Net' Network](#)

**To:**

**References:** [1](#)

Anybody heard any reports of what might have transpired at Woodside?  
Len

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [andrew ryder](#)

**To:** [TRAVELLER-NET@JISCMAIL.AC.UK](mailto:TRAVELLER-NET@JISCMAIL.AC.UK)

**Sent:** Sunday, November 03, 2002 3:35 PM

**Subject:** MEDIA REPORT ON WOODSIDE-LABOUR CALLS FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

THE FOLLOWING REPORT COMES FROM THE BEDS  
ON SUNDAY  
NEWSPAPER.

Investigation demand over eviction of Hatch gypsies

THE Mid Bedfordshire Labour group has called for a  
public inquiry into the eviction of gypsies at Hatch.

Group leader Paul Griffiths made the comments on the  
eve of the eviction deadline by which the Woodside  
Caravan site at Hatch has to be cleared.

The eviction of the residents has caused argument  
among councillors, particularly over the estimated  
£250,000 the eviction has cost the council in legal  
costs alone.

Mid Beds Labour group leader Paul Griffiths said: "The  
Labour group has and is proud to support the struggle  
the Roma gypsies at Hatch are going through at  
present.

"The stresses and pressures on the people are

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overwhelming - I admire their spirit to survive.

"What this case highlights is the need for a public inquiry into what has happened.

"The council has spent a quarter of a million pounds on this, and that's just the legal costs, not the officer costs and the clean up.

"We are talking about half a million pounds altogether on what is in some respects a trivial thing."

The Labour group has also suggested that a Traveller Commission should be set up in the UK to determine the need for sites.

On Thursday night, a small group of residents appeared at a full meeting of Mid Bedfordshire District council to make a last minute plea for clemency.

Despite this, the council have still told residents of the site to have moved on by Monday - or be moved.

Council workers and bailiffs are expected tomorrow to begin removing residents from the site by force, as is their right under the Town and Country Planning Act.

Picture shows Cllr Paul Griffiths

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